

Outstanding again!

For the second year in a row CIMMYT has been giving a ranking of "outstanding" in the annual performance measurement conducted by the CGIAR. CIMMYT was one of only two CGIAR centers to reach this, the highest performance level. The indicators look at a center's overall performance in a very comprehensive way and include criteria about science quality and delivery, partnership, stakeholder perceptions, management, and governance.

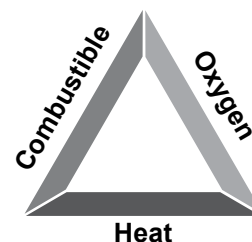
CIMMYT Board Chair, Lene Lange, said "Congratulations to CIMMYT and to all of us! This is really fantastic news." Her sentiment was echoed by the Board's Program Committee Chair, Julio Berdegue, when he said, "Considering that the quality of the science explains half of the result, congratulations also to each member of the staff all around the world and at every level of the Center. Your very good work is the firm foundation of CIMMYT."

The outstanding ranking will mean additional funding from the World Bank, beyond what had been budgeted for this year. That is good news, says DG Iwanaga, as it will help offset some anticipated decreases in core contributions from other partners.

Fire Prevention and Fight Basic Course: The triangle of fire

Fourteen members of the CIMMYT community at El Batán spent Tuesday 12 June learning about fire and, more importantly, how to deal with unwanted fire or prevent it in the first place.

Fire is a rapid oxidation process that creates light, heat, and smoke, and releases energy. With this explanation started the theoretical-practical course which took place at the Auditorium and La Redonda. The instructor explained to the participants that the sides of an equilateral triangle represent each one three elements that, when combined, explode and cause fires: oxygen, heat, and combustible material. He also talked about the various types of fires, the stages of combustion, how fire spreads, extinguishing methods, and how we can prevent fires at home. The theory was complemented with simple experiments in the classroom. Later the group moved to La Redonda, where a fire-fighting drill with CO₂ and chemical-powder extinguishing agents was performed. Every participant was able to practice how to put out a fire of small proportions.



Attending the course were Guadalupe Morales, Josafat Lara Sánchez, Alfredo Serna Mackey, Thérèse Bogdan, Karen Klee Atlin, Jorge Enciso Arroyo, Guillermo Espejel Avendaño, Josefina Ortiz Morales, Huixia Wu, Ana María Sánchez Maldonado, Hilario Valencia, Eduardo Mejía, Roberto Rojas, and Ma. Concepción Castro.



The course was organized by Human Resources and given by Martín González and Julio Flores, from Asesores Profesionales en Emergencia y Rescate.

Harvest Choice meets

Harvest Choice, a partnership between the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the University of Minnesota, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, held a workshop this week at CIMMYT El Batán. The goal of the meeting was to test and refine a method for assessing the impact on cropping system productivity of key pests within sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, especially with respect to the rural poor.

Participants from CIMMYT included Dave Hodson, John Dixon, Julie Nicol (via a link to Turkey), Etienne Duveiller, and Jonathan Crouch.



CIMMYT Finance Manager

Luis de Anda is appointed as CIMMYT's Finance Manager from Monday 18 June. Luis has been working in the Finance Department since January so already is very familiar to many people. Luis is a Mexican national (originally from Aguascalientes) who has considerable experience in the private sector both within Mexico and other Latin countries.

He takes over from Bruce Fraser, who has been occupying the position on an interim basis since April 2006.



It is not a final farewell for Bruce, as he will be returning to CIMMYT to provide some consultancy services during 2007.

FEBHEC Raffle 2007

This year's raffle will take place on Friday June 29 in the Borlaug building pyramid at 1:00 p.m. First prize: two flight tickets to Cancún, and a 2-night/3-day stay in Hotel Fiesta Americana; 2nd prize: a mini hi-fi; 3rd prize: a surprise gift. The funds raised will go to FEBHEC. Tickets are on sale now.

Birthdays June 16-22

Edith Cruz 16; Hugo De Groote 16; Trinidad Lugo 17; Ciriaco Carrillo 18; Marcos Paez 18; Worknesh Gudetta 18; Enrique García 19; Silverio Muñoz 20; Martin Shoko 20; Luis Santana 21; Nathan Damu 21; Carmen Espinosa 22; Upasana Pradhan 22.